

Confidential Claim Retracted

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**MINE INSPECTION REPORT
JACKPILE MINE
UNITED PUEBLO AGENCY
LAGUNA PUEBLO RESERVATION
VALENCIA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

by
**James W. Hager
Mining Engineer**

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BRANCH OF MINING OPERATIONS
CONSERVATION DIVISION**

On May 23, 1963, the Jackpile and Puguata mines on the Laguna Pueblo Reservation were examined. The mines are operated by the Anaconda Company and are located about 8½ miles north of Laguna, Valencia County, New Mexico. Mr. John Herndon was mine superintendent. The last examination of the mines by engineers of this office was March 13, 1963.

Stripping at the Puguata Mine continued at the rate of about 200,000 tons per month since date of last inspection. About 78,000 tons of ore were mined from the Puguata pit and stockpiled on the pads south of the pit. On May 1, 1963, 378,600 tons of ore that averaged 0.336% U_3O_8 was stockpiled on the Puguata ore pads.

All work in the pit has been confined to stripping and the mining of ore has been kept to a minimum. Only lenses of ore that extend upward into the strip are mined.

It is anticipated that all mining will be completed by the first of 1968. At that time enough ore should be stockpiled to operate the Bluewater concentrator for two years. This advanced mining will give Anaconda two years to develop other ore that may become marketable after 1970.

The Jackpile pit stockpiles on May 1, 1963, contained 299,053 tons of ore with an average grade of 0.236% U_3O_8 . Three trains of ore a week are shipped from the stockpiles in the Jackpile pit. It is planned to ship all the Jackpile stockpile before any of the Puguata ore is shipped. About 7,500 tons of ore are shipped weekly.



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The ore in the bottom of the Jackpile pit is being removed at the rate of 20,000 tons per month. The ore is below the water table so a pump has been installed at the lower end to pump the water to an abandoned portion of the pit. Because of the dry weather conditions it is not necessary to pump the water out of the pit. Evaporation has disposed of the water faster than it has been necessary to pump it.

The ore in the Jackpile is ripped by a D-9 catapillar bulldozer then pushed into piles. A 3/4-yard diesel powered shovel loads the loose ore into 20-ton truck which hauls the ore to the stockpiles. The ore in the bottom is of exceptionally high grade and will raise the grade of the stockpiles considerably. Approximately 300,000 tons will be mined in this manner.

On date of examination the mine had worked 400 days without a lost-time accident. There was a total of 110 men employed at the mine on a one shift, 5 day week.

No safety violations or violations of the lease terms were noted during the examination.

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Orig. to: Supt., United Pueblo, Albuquerque
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